

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-24

NOVEMBER 10, 1944

## BOUNTIFUL CROPS

Nature has been with us this season. Cotton, tobacco, grain sorghums, and several minor crops turned out the largest yields per acre ever grown. Composite yield of all crops around 132 percent of the 1923-32 or "pre-drought" average, higher than any past year except 1942, when yield index was 136.2. Acreage of crops harvested this year 5 percent larger than 1942 and largest since 1932. Total of this year's crops apparently largest ever harvested, even tops 1942.

### U. S. GROWS NEARLY A FOURTH OF WORLD GRAIN

With the largest corn crop ever grown, an exceptional wheat crop, and fairly large oats and barley crops, grain production will total about 157.5 million tons, compared with previous record of 155 million tons in 1942. Our grain crop probably equals 1/5 to 1/4 of the usual world production of all grains.

### BIGGEST CORN CROP

October made a record corn crop; 3,258 million bushels is the November estimate, an increase of 61 million over October forecast. This is about 182 million more than last year and 127 million above the previous record crop of 1942. Corn Belt States alone turned out 2,569 million bushels, breaking their record, this production being about 4/5 of the total crop.

Corn harvested for grain estimated about 2.9 billion bushels, roughly 89 percent of total crop. It compares with 2.7 billion for grain last year.

Farm stocks of old corn are low, and storage facilities large, so that record new crop is not likely to create serious storage problem.

### STOCKS OF GRAIN OCTOBER 1

Total stocks of wheat in all storage positions, on and off farms, October 1 were 1,106 million bushels, compared with 1,110 million last year. Stocks of old corn, 238 million this year compared with 388 million last year. Stocks of oats, 1,032 million, against 996 million last year. Barley stocks 260 million bushels, against 328 million last year. Rye stocks, 37 million this year against 54 million last year.

### RECORD OUTTURN OF GRAIN SORGHUMS

Sorghums, great feed-grain crop of the Southwest, now estimated total 160 million bushels, 57 million above last year and far largest ever grown.

## SECOND LARGEST SOYBEAN CROP

Soybean crop 194 million bushels; excepting 1943, the largest crop on record. Indicated production in 10 principal States 182.4 million bushels, compared with 185.2 million in same area last year. October weather favored the harvest, killing frost being a month later than usual in many States. Most of planted acreage reached full maturity. Crop of very good quality. Storage a problem in some areas because of rapid harvest.

### POTATOES SLIGHTLY ABOVE AVERAGE

Total potato crop placed at 388 million bushels, compared with 465 million last year and 10-year average (1933-42) of 363 million. Indicated crop for 30 late States, 310 million bushels, 15 percent under last year, but 7 percent above average.

Sweet potato crop 76 million bushels, 5 percent above last year and 13 percent above 1933-42 average (67.2 million bushels). Crop apparently largest since 1935.

### NEAR RECORD TOBACCO CROP

Large tobacco crop, 1.8 billion pounds, 29 percent above last year and only 4 percent less than previous record crop of 1939.

Flue-cured crop 1,062 million pounds, second crop in history to exceed a billion pounds. Crop last year 788 million pounds.

Burley crop an all-time high, 488.5 million pounds, compared with 390 million last year and previous 10-year average of 326.5 million pounds.

### RECORD COTTON YIELD

Estimates of the cotton crop have been revised upward 367,000 bales. November estimate, 12,320,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, compared with 11,427,000 bales in 1943 and 12,455,000 bales for the 10-year average, 1933-42. Average yield of lint per acre estimated at 293.3 pounds, which is well above previous record of 272.4 pounds. Average yield for the 10 years was 226.9 pounds per acre. Mild weather and little rain during October almost ideal for cotton maturity and harvest.

### LARGE FRUIT CROPS (CRANBERRIES SHORT)

November fruit report shows total supply over 16 million tons, a million below last month's forecast, but still above any past year. Hurricane damaged fruit along East Coast. Total orange and tangerine crops now being harvested

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	SEPT. 15 1944	OCT. 15 1944	
Wheat, bu. . . . . dol.	1.35	1.42	1.50
Corn, bu. . . . . dol.	1.16	1.13	1.09
Oats, bu. . . . . dol.	.64	.66	.678
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	21.02	21.25	21.08
Potatoes, bu. . . . . dol.	1.47	1.42	1.23
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	13.60	13.80	12.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	11.60	11.60	9.21
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.90	12.90	11.50
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	12.10	12.20	10.00
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	50.2	50.3	46.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	3.27	3.34	2.90
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	23.7	23.8	19.4
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	35.5	38.8	43.6

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.

(excluding California Valencias and summer grapefruit) estimated 70 million boxes, and *grapefruit* 46 million. These estimates are down 11 million and 15 million boxes, respectively, since Florida storm.

*Cranberries* very short supply—46 percent under last year; crop estimated 364 thousand barrels, against 681 thousand last year.

#### MORE MILK THIS OCTOBER THAN LAST

Milk production during October estimated roughly 9.1 billion pounds, decline from September less than usual. Output 4 percent above October last year. Total milk production first 10 months of 1944 was 102.1 billion pounds, slightly above the 101.9 billion in same period last year.

Production per cow November 1 averaged 12.51 pounds, compared with 11.94 pounds last year and 10-year average of 12.08 pounds for November 1. This production per cow is up for first time since July 1942. Percentage of cows in herd being milked November 1 was 66, smallest percentage in recent years, suggesting labor shortage.

#### SMALLER EGG PRODUCTION AHEAD

Egg production has increased strikingly ever since war began. 1943 output was about 5 billion dozen, which was 39 percent above the 1937-41 average. Seems probable that total egg production in 1944 may reach 5.2 billion dozen, 4 percent over last year.

Average number layers on farms, in September, for 1933-42 period was 260 million; in September 1942 the figure was 303 million, in 1943 it was 333 million, and this September 341 million. However, number of chickens raised in 1944 declined 20 percent under last year; egg production will be less during remainder of this year, and in 1945 may run 8 to 12 percent below 1944. Potential layers on farms October 1 were 7 percent fewer than year ago.

*Turkey* prices to growers in 1943 averaged 29.6 cents a pound, about double the 1940 price of 14 cents. With a stimulating price, turkey production this year will reach a record half-billion pounds and may exceed that figure next year. The bulk of the turkeys is going to the armed forces.

#### FARM POPULATION AT NEW LOW

Farm population in the United States, as of January 1944, is estimated at 25,521,000 persons. In 1943 it was 26.6 million, in 1942 was 29 million, 1941 was roughly 30 million, and in 1940 was 30.3 million. The decrease between January 1940 and January 1944 amounted to 4,748,000 persons or 15.7 percent. Largest single year's decline during those four years was in 1942, when

movement into armed forces and war industries cut the farm population by 2,389,000. In 1943 the decrease was 1,138,000.

During the four years following January 1940, the farm population lost (net) 1,650,000 to the armed forces and 4,660,000 to non-farm areas, partly offset by a gain of 1,562,000 excess of births over deaths.

The trend in farm population has been downward since 1916. That was interrupted by the depression of the 1930s, when many people drifted back to the farms. However, the war years have again set the tide strongly away from the farms. In fact, counting the men in armed forces as part of the farm population, the latter is now about 650,000 lower than it would have been, had the farm-ward movement during the depression not interrupted that downward trend which prevailed from 1916 to 1930.

#### SMALLEST LABOR FORCE FOR BIGGEST HARVEST

Smallest farm labor force on record has been harvesting the biggest crop in our history. Total number workers on farms October 1, was 11,839,000; compared with 11,938,000 a year previous. Number of *family* workers this October 8,928,000, against 8,834,000 year ago. Number *hired* workers, 2,911,000 compared with 3,104,000 year ago.

Average daily wage of farm workers, without board, for the United States as a whole, \$4.08 at beginning of October, compared with \$3.51 year previous. This daily wage varied in different States—\$6 a day in Maine compared with \$5.50 year ago, \$5.70 in Iowa against \$5.20 last year, \$7.50 in California against \$6.90 last year; lowest daily wage \$2.05 in South Carolina this October compared with \$1.65 year ago.

Number of *foreign* workers on farms September 30 included 59,895 Mexicans, 16,587 Jamaicans, 4,898 Bahamians, 986 Newfoundlanders, and 895 Barbadians.

#### FARM INCOME

Total receipts from farm products sold during September, \$2,006 million, including \$53 million of Government payments. Like figure for September 1943 was \$1,992 million, which included \$57 million Government payments.

The January-September total receipts this year, \$14,574 million, compared with \$13,607 million in like period last year. These figures included \$659 million of Government payments this year and \$553 million last year.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142—Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	OCTOBER 1944
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	194
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	170
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	114
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	161
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 178
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	325
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 412
RATIOS	LONG-TIME OCT. - AVERAGE	OCTOBER 1944
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.5	12.2
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	26.2	26.0
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.34	1.50
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	21.5	17.5
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - SEPT. 1943	JAN. - SEPT. 1944
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	93.2	93.0
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	45.2	47.8
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	4,193	4,865
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	665	635
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	8,636	9,985
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	13,862	16,086
<sup>1</sup> Aug. figure.		
<sup>2</sup> Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. August figure.		